

COLLETOTRICHUM LEAF SPOT OF ENGLISH IVY

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English ivy (*Hedera helix* L.) is a hardy evergreen vine used as a ground cover and as a decorative plant cover for surfaces of buildings and walls (2). One of the most common leaf spots of this plant is caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum trichellum* (Fr.) Duke (3). This leaf spotting disease has been reported from England (3), Italy (1,6), and the United States (4,5,8). Only *Aralia sieboldii* Hort. is reported as an additional host of this fungus (6).

SYMPTOMS. Leaf spots are generally dry, brown to reddish brown, irregularly shaped areas ranging from 0.2 to 2.0 cm in diameter (Fig. 1A) (7). Lesions on the petiole and stem may result in severe defoliation and death of the plants (4, 8). Conidia, disseminated by splashing water, germinate and produce penetration pegs (appressoria) which directly invade the leaf. Sporulation by the fungus is evidenced by the presence of acervuli containing dark setae (Fig. 1B). The acervuli are usually located on the upper leaf surface (7).

CONTROL. Protective fungicides such as maneb, Daconil, or fixed copper at 1 ½ lbs/100 gal are suggested when conditions of high humidity favor the development of this disease.

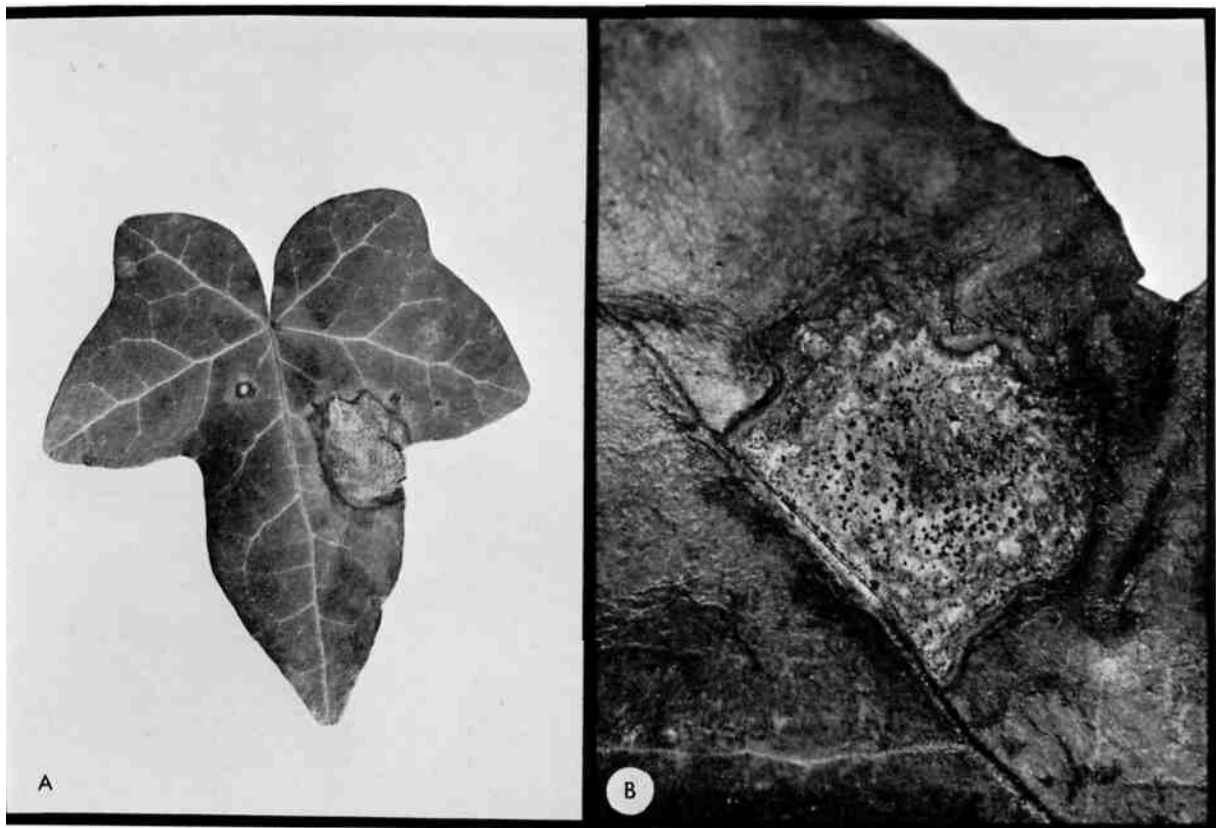


Fig. 1. Leaf infection caused by *Colletotrichum trichellum* on *Hedera helix*: A) small and large leaf spots; B) closeup of leaf spot with acervuli and setae of *C. trichellum*.

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